

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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June 27, 2025

The Honorable Rebecca L. Rausch, Senate Chair
The Honorable Jack Patrick Lewis, House Chair
The Honorable John F. Keenan, Senate Vice Chair
The Honorable Lindsay N. Sabadosa, House Vice Chair
The Honorable Peter J. Durant, Ranking Senate Minority Member
The Honorable Michael S. Chaisson, Ranking House Minority Member
Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government
State House, Boston

Dear Chair Rausch, Chair Lewis, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government:

In accordance with Chapter 213 of the Acts of 2024, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources submits the following report on the licensing of kennels in Massachusetts to the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

“Not later than July 1, 2025, the department shall file a report with the joint committee on municipalities and regional government on the number of kennel licenses issued, the type of kennel licenses issued, municipalities not in compliance with the license requirements and any related legislative recommendations.”

A summary of the information collected is as follows:

114 Municipalities failed to provide adequate data related to the issuance of kennel licenses within their respective cities and towns (see below).

The breakdown of kennel licenses issued in 2025 are as follows:

Commercial Boarding and Training Kennels – 415
Commercial Breeder Kennels – 41
Domestic Charitable Corporation Kennels – 31
Personal Kennels – 822
Veterinary Kennels – 23
Licensed kennels with unspecified type - 38

Total Licensed Kennels Reported in Massachusetts – 1,370

List of municipalities that are not in compliance:

Acton
Acushnet
Adams
Agawam
Amesbury
Athol
Auburn
Avon
Ayer
Barre
Becket
Bedford
Blackstone
Braintree
Bridgewater
Brimfield
Brockton
Brookfield
Brookline
Carlisle
Cheshire
Chester
Chilmark
Colrain
Conway
Deerfield
Dennis
Dover
East Bridgewater
East Longmeadow
Florida
Framingham
Gill
Gloucester
Gosnold
Grafton
Halifax
Hancock
Haverhill
Holland
Hopedale
Hubbardston
Hull
Kingston
Lawrence
Lee
Lenox

Lexington
Lincoln
Longmeadow
Lowell
Lynn
Lynnfield
Malden
Marlborough
Marshfield
Maynard
Melrose
Middlefield
Millville
Monroe
Monson
Montague
Monterey
Nahant
Nantucket
New Ashford
New Bedford
New Braintree
New Salem
North Adams
North Attleborough
North Brookfield
Norton
Norwell
Pembroke
Plainfield
Provincetown
Quincy
Randolph
Raynham
Revere
Rochester
Salem
Sandisfield
Savoy
Shirley
Shutesbury
Somerville
South Hadley
Southampton
Southborough
Stoneham
Sturbridge

Swampscott
Topsfield
Townsend
Truro
Tyringham
Wakefield
Wales
Waltham
Ware
Warwick
Washington
Webster
Wellesley
Wendell
West Stockbridge
Weston
Weymouth
Whitman
Wilbraham
Winthrop